

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

## *Office of the Governor*

**Whereas**, Families serve as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, and are the very foundation of our communities, our state, and our nation; and,

**Whereas**, Dedicated foster families provide safe, nurturing homes to more than 985 children and youth in South Dakota; and,

**Whereas**, Foster families open their homes and hearts and give hope to children in South Dakota whose families are in crisis. They play a vital role in helping children and families heal, reconnect, and launch children into successful adulthood; and,

**Whereas**, Their contributions of time, talent, and mentorship make a world of difference for children in foster care who benefit from enduring relationships with sincere and caring adults; and,

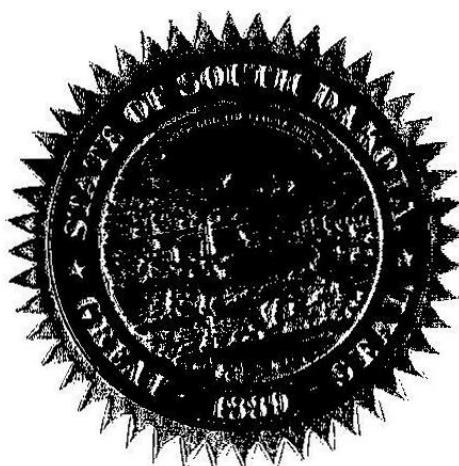
**Whereas**, There are numerous individuals and public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the enduring and valuable contributions of foster parents, as well as the children in or leaving their care; and,

**Whereas**, The individual commitments to becoming a foster family for children in need represents the ultimate expression of community service; and,

**Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds**, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2010 as

## *FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS MONTH*

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to volunteer their talents and generous spirits on behalf of children in foster care.



**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

A handwritten signature of M. Michael Rounds.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature of Chris Nelson.

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State